

WAS JAMES ORD GEORGE IV.'S SON?

American Sequel to Mrs. Fitzherbert's Romance.

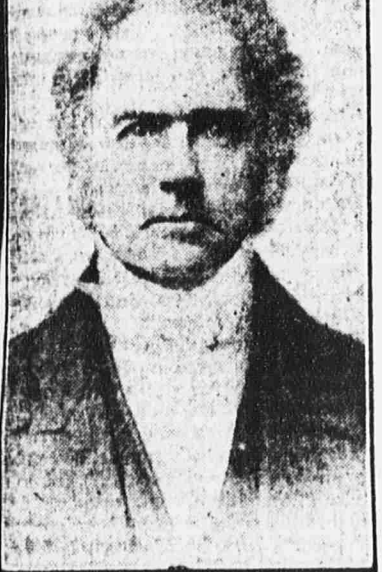
MYSTERY OF THREE LANDS.

Evidence That Some Americans Are a King's Descendants.

Persons That May Be Settled by the Papers Long Hidden in Countess's Bank in London and Opened the Other Day—Facts That Indicate That Mrs. Fitzherbert Had a Son by Her Marriage with the Prince Regent and That He Took Him First to Spain and Then to America—James Ord's Powerful Friends, Though He Was Reputed to Be of Humble Birth—Evidence Collected by His Descendants as to His Parentage—Belief That Secret Was Known to Jesuits—A Strange History.

Did King George IV. have a son by Mrs. Fitzherbert, and was that son James Ord, who came to America in 1790 and died in 1830? Are the descendants of James Ord the descendants of the royal Georges of England or of poor people from the East end of London?

A mass of data, painstakingly collected by a grandchild of James Ord and placed in the disposal of THE SUN constitutes a circumstantial evidence intended to supply an affirmative answer to these questions. The story thus revealed reads like this:



JAMES ORD, SUPPOSED SON OF THE PRINCE REGENT AND MRS. FITZHERBERT.

romance, but leaves the verdict to be determined by the individual opinions and evidence of the reader. In the course of the investigation of time and expense, this descendant of James Ord collected every obtainable scrap of evidence in America, in Spain, in the East End and the West End of London, in Rome, approaching even the seals of the Jesuits himself. Birth certificates, marriage certificates, odd scraps of letters in the handwriting of the eighteenth century, yellow with age, priceless possessions of the Ord family, form largely the basis of the narrative that follows.

The object of the collector in allowing this data to be published is largely to correct a great many inaccurate statements made at one time or another by various literary descendants of James Ord. Recently, in particular, when it was cabled to the London press that the late Mrs. Fitzherbert's papers deposited more than twenty years ago in the bank of Coutts & Co. in London had been opened, a Chicago member of the Ord family stated that he had heard not only of the British throne, but a large fortune to boot.

NOT HEIRS TO THE BRITISH CROWN. This heir forgot the important point of kinship which obtains in England. The children of Pacificus Ord, the eldest son of James Ord, recognize perfectly the fact that no child of Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales (as George IV. was then married) can have any legal right to the British crown because of the Royal Marriage Act.

They are aware that no fortune awaits the descendants of Mrs. Fitzherbert, because she had no entailed estate and her personal property was bequeathed to her adopted daughter, Miss Seymour, afterward Lady Vernon Damer. They are not even misled by the fact that the documents they hold prove James Ord to have been a son of Mrs. Fitzherbert's marriage with the Prince Regent. They only believe them to be strong circumstantial evidence, and they point out that the results, renowned for discretion and accuracy, have published it as a fact that James Ord was the offspring of Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV.

As to what does all this evidence at hand point? To this: The child of Mrs. Fitzherbert and George IV., assuming that James was a child, was turned over to a woman in humble circumstances, a member of the East End family who had lost her husband, and who was then despatched with her charge to Spain, and subsequently to America.

THE PRINCE REGENT. A word about George IV. Thackeray had no admiration for him. He took the stock in the Prince's alleged friendship with such men as Sheridan, Burke and Charles Fox.

friends and Catholic coreligionists saw a great deal of good in knowing that married actually was, although the ceremony was performed by a Church of England clergyman, not strictly according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

MRS. FITZHERBERT TWICE A WIDOW. Mrs. Fitzherbert came of an old English Catholic family and was the daughter of Walter Smythe, Esq., of Bannbridge, Hants. Mary Anne Smythe was born in July, 1756, and married in July, 1775, to Edward Weld, Esq., of Lulworth Castle, Dorsetshire.

Her husband died within the year and in 1778 she married Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq., of Swinerton, Stafford. Three years later this husband also died, and before she was 25 Mrs. Fitzherbert was for the second time a widow.

"Mrs. Fitzherbert," Lord Stourton, her friend and relative, tells us in a posthumously published narrative, "was first acquainted with the Prince when residing on Richmond Hill, and soon became the object of his most ardent attentions. During this period she was made the subject of a popular ballad which designated her under the title of the 'Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill'."

I would crown resign to call her mine, Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill.

"She was then the widow of Mr. Fitzherbert, in possession of an independent income of nearly £2,000 a year, admired and caressed by all who were acquainted with her. It is not therefore surprising that she resided, with the utmost anxiety and firmness, the flattering attentions of the most accomplished Prince of his age. She was well aware of the gulf that yawned beneath those flattering demonstrations of royal adulation."

VIGOROUS COURTSHIP OF THE PRINCE. But monarchs, Sir Walter Scott has it, seldom sigh in vain. "The most accomplished Prince of his age" resorted to a curious form of attack. One evening Keit, the royal surgeon, Lord Onslow, Lord Southampton and Mr. Edward Bouverie came to Mrs. Fitzherbert's house in a great state of perturbation and told her that the life of the Prince was in the greatest danger—that he had stabbed himself—and that only her immediate presence would save him. Mrs. Fitzherbert resisted and declined to enter Carlton House alone under any circumstances, but finally yielded on condition that no less a lady than the Duchess of Devonshire should accompany her.

She found the Prince pale and covered with blood. "The Prince told her," goes on Lord Stourton, "that nothing would induce him to live unless she promised to become his wife, and permitted him to put a ring round her finger."

THE MARRIAGE. "Immediately after her return," continues the narrative, "she was married to the Prince according to the rites of the Catholic Church in this country; her uncle, Harry Lexington, and her brother, Jack Smythe, being witnesses to the contract, along with the Protestant clergyman who officiated at the ceremony. No Roman Catholic priest officiated.

"A certificate of this marriage is extant in the handwriting of the Prince, and with his signature and that of Mary Fitzherbert. The witnesses' names were added; but the earnest request of the parties, in a time of danger, they were afterward cut out by Mrs. Fitzherbert herself, with her own scissors, to save them from the peril of the law."

"This she afterward regretted; but a letter of the Prince on her return to him has been preserved to supply the deficiency, in which he thanks God that the witnesses to their union were still living, and, moreover, the letter of the officiating clergyman is still preserved, together with another document with the signature and seal, but not in the handwriting of the Prince, in which he repeatedly terms her his wife."

THE SECRETS AT COUTTS'S BANK. So much for the marriage. The subsequent vicissitudes of Mrs. Fitzherbert, her separations from the Prince when new favorites appeared, her subsequent reunions with him, her grief when he married Princess Caroline of Brunswick, and her joy when he returned to her do not pertain to the story at hand.

"Upon her placing in his [King William's] hands the documents which have been preserved in justification of her marriage, and especially the certificate of her marriage, and another interesting and most affecting paper, the amiable Sovereign was moved to tears by her personal, and expressed his surprise at so much forbearance with such documents in her possession and under the pressure of such long and severe trials."

Later it was agreed that the Duke of Wellington, as executor for George IV., Mrs. Fitzherbert and her friends, Lord Althorpe and Lord Stourton, should go over all papers and correspondence between Mrs. Fitzherbert and the King and destroy all papers except such as Mrs. Fitzherbert should wish to keep. And these, it was decided, were to be sealed under the seals of the Duke of Wellington, Sir William Knigh, the Earl of Albemarle and Lord Stourton, and deposited in the bank of Coutts & Co.

This was done on August 24, 1833. Here is a list of the papers kept and placed at Coutts's:

1. The mortgage on the palace at Brighton [secured by Mrs. Fitzherbert an annuity of £6,000, gift of the royal family].
2. The certificate of marriage dated December 21, 1785.
3. Letter from the King, relating to the marriage [signed George IV.].
4. Will written by the late King [George IV.].
5. Memorandum written by Mrs. Fitzherbert attached to a letter written by the clergyman who performed the marriage ceremony.

WAS THERE A SON. Very shortly after the depositing of these papers Lord Stourton wrote to Lord Althorpe:

"Under the propitious auspices of your Lordship, I confidently anticipated the favorable issue to which you have brought Mrs. Fitzherbert's concerns, and I am happy to hear that she is satisfied with the result. I think Mrs. Fitzherbert retains everything essential to her character and property."

"With respect to the agreement which your Lordship has enclosed, I would only suggest one circumstance, that, as the marriage, however illegal, is considered by our Church as valid, whether Mrs. Fitzherbert might not be advised to write at the back of the certificate, 'I issue from this marriage. Witness my hand, M. F. Fitzherbert.'"

Whether or not this was done and whether

Mrs. Fitzherbert wrote that there had not been issue from her marriage with King George is one of the secrets contained in the documents at Coutts's.

In 1841, some years after Mrs. Fitzherbert's death, we find Lord Stourton writing again: "I do not feel satisfied that we have done everything required till I am cognizant of the nature of the document signed 5 in our memorandum, said to contain a memorandum written by Mrs. Fitzherbert, attached to a letter written by the clergyman who performed the marriage ceremony."

"Of all the documentary papers, I consider this probably the most important; particularly if I am correct in the notion that this

wrote from Port Royal under date of May 3, 1782, to his brother James, saying that he has been made master's mate and announced a victory of Admiral Rodney's."

Robert Foulthrop Ord, also a seaman, writes to his mother from on board H. M. S. Mercury, at St. Helena, also hoping for prize money, in much the same fashion as John. He died intestate in 1798.

POWERFUL FRIENDS OF AN OBSCURE FAMILY. Does it seem likely, the descendants of James Ord ask, that men like John Carroll, afterward Archbishop of Baltimore, would take unusual interest in a child coming from so obscure and simple a family? John Carroll, by the way, was in 1771 appointed



MRS. FITZHERBERT.

memorandum contains Mrs. Fitzherbert's testimony that no issue arose from this marriage.

"I had myself, previously to this arrangement, taken the liberty to counsel Mrs. Fitzherbert to leave some evidence in her own handwriting as to the circumstances of the issue arising from this connection, and had advised it being noted with her own signature at the back of the certificate. To this she smilingly objected, on the score of delicacy."

"Can it be," asks the descendant of James Ord, "that an old woman who had been thrice married, particularly in pre-Victorian days, would feel delicacy about a thing like that?"

THE ORD FAMILY. And now we leave royalty and the peerage and go over to the East End of London, to St. George's parish and to Wapping, the abode of small tradesmen, of ship chandlers and seafaring men.

In the year 1776 we find one Robert Ord and his wife, Helen, Roman Catholics, dwelling in the parish of St. George's in the East, London.

In August, 1778, Mrs. Ord, then a widow, was living at 15 Green Bank, near Wapping Church, London. At this time there were three daughters, Helen (Nelly), Mary (Polly) and Elizabeth, and three sons, John, Robert Foulthrop and James.

Helen Ord married one Andrew Begg, August 1, 1784; Elizabeth Ord was a married woman in 1782, though the name of her husband is unknown, and Mary Ord, with whom alone this narrative is concerned, was married at the Church of St. George in the East on July 4, 1785, to a relative named Ralph Ord of the parish of St. Botolph's, Aldersgate.

MARY ORD'S SON. On April 3, 1786, the register of baptisms of the church of St. Mary and St. Michael, Commercial Road, East, shows that James Ord, son of Ralph and Mary Ord, was baptized by the Catholic priest M. E. Coen.

Diligent search of the records fails to show any further trace of this child, not even a record of his death. The descendants of the American James Ord, who ever he was, believe that the child died very shortly after his birth.

Ralph Ord, the father, probably also died shortly after his marriage. His death also fails to appear on any records thus far discovered. But it is known that he had been by occupation a wood carver.

Further records show, it may be stated here, that the Mary Ord mentioned above died in Norfolk, Va., about October 30, 1792, and Helen Ord, Mary's mother, widow of Robert Ord, died in the same place October 21, 1791.

THE ORD COMMON SEAMAN. The three sons were all common seamen

in the capacity of dock yard inspector, at a salary of £200. The English Ambassador at Madrid at this period was Allyn Fitzherbert, brother in law of Mrs. Fitzherbert.

PRINCE OF WALES GOT HIM THE PLACE. James Ord appears to have arrived at Bilbao some time prior to November 6, 1789, for a letter to him from the Prime Minister, dated November 26, 1789, acknowledges the receipt of his two letters of November 6 and 10. The Prime Minister congratulates him on his naval ability and tells him that he will not trouble him to write by every mail, but only when he shall consider it necessary.

And why this great interest in and courtesy to an obscure seafaring man from Wapping on the part of the Prime Minister of Spain? Because, as James Ord informed the Rev. William Matthews of Georgetown College, Washington, years afterward, the position had been procured for him by the Prince of Wales.

A letter dated December 22, 1789, from a Spanish friend of James's, expresses the hope that he is in good health and in the company of his mother, his sister and his nephew. On the records this is the first and only mention of a child while they were in Spain. In a letter from Mr. Joy Castle, which James received from England, his mother and sister are mentioned, but there is no reference to any child.

THE ORDS COME TO AMERICA. The next we hear of Ord and his little family they are in Norfolk, Va. There seems small doubt that they sailed on the ship Sampson which left Gravesend October 9, 1790, and arrived in Baltimore on either December 7 or December 8.

The first documentary evidence we find is a receipt for house rent from March 6, 1791, to July 21, 1791. This is undated, but items of an account beginning July 22, 1791, are dated at Norfolk.

James Ord brought with him to America his mother, Helen; his sister, Mary Ord, and Mary's reputed child, a boy about 4 years old, who was also known as James Ord. Helen died October 21, 1791, and Mary Ord presumably in 1792.

PRIEST ASKS ABOUT "THE" CHILD. The Rev. M. E. Coen, in writing from London on July 16, 1792, to James Ord, expresses surprise at James's having left Spain, "especially as he could not learn the cause of it." He expresses regret to hear of the death of the mother of James Ord, and wishes to know how his sister is, "and whether the child be living."

Mr. Coen is the only correspondent from England who mentions a child.

Practically from the time of his arrival in America James Ord was employed by John Brent of Norfolk until December 30, 1800. After that, through the influence of Robert Brent, a paymaster in the United States Navy, James was appointed a naval constructor at the Washington Navy Yard, which post he held until his death on October 12, 1810.

And now we have done with poor James Ord, once of Wapping, and we pass on to the narrative of the other James Ord, the reputed nephew of the first James Ord, the mysterious child who seemed always on the verge of learning some secret relating to his birth, but was left in the end to founder with nothing more than circumstantial evidence.

The narrative of this James Ord, who died in Omaha in 1873, is a summary of statements made at four different times to his children, and by them these statements were preserved with all possible accuracy.

The granddaughter in the direct line of James Ord, who is now in possession of all the documents, believes that the time for secrecy is over. She is in the hope that publication may elicit correspondence that will tend to clear up the points that remain obscure. The following is the narrative of James Ord II.

NARRATIVE OF JAMES ORD II. "I have always been known by the name of James Ord. My first recollections are of living in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, with a man by name James Ord, and his sister, Mary Ord, who were recognized by me as uncle and mother respectively. Their mother, Helen Ord, widow of Robert Ord, was also one of the family.

"Helen Ord died at Great Bridge in October, 1791. I have no recollection whatever of her. Mary Ord, whom I was taught to call mother, died in Norfolk about a year or two afterward. My only recollection is going in a boat to her funeral at Great Bridge, near Norfolk, and seeing her coffin. I was told that the name of her deceased husband was Ralph Ord.

"James Ord, my reputed uncle, and his mother and sister were English people and came to the United States from Bilbao, Spain, in 1790. They landed at Norfolk, Va. They brought me with them, and I believe I was about 4 years of age at the time. I have often heard my uncle say that I was brought a tender infant from England to Bilbao, Spain, and that I never saw my father or sucked the breast of my mother."

The account goes on to relate that James Ord I told him that in Spain he had had an attendant to teach him Spanish and a female nurse and that the old tacturn James Ord rarely spoke of his relatives in England.

About the year 1795 or 1798 the John Brents left Norfolk for their old home at Port Tobacco, Md., the two Ords accompanying them. After some further accounts of schooling in the region young Ord went to live with Mr. Noddy Young on his estate, called Non Such, near Washington.

"IF YOU HAD YOUR RIGHTS." On April 12, 1800, the boy was placed at the Jesuit College, Georgetown, D. C., of which the Rev. Leonard Neale was then president.

To resume James Ord's narrative: "Although I always called James Ord uncle, I knew that I was only his nephew

by adoption. He told me this in answer to a question about my birth.

"I had heard my playmates discussing their birthdays, and it occurred to me that I did not know mine, so I asked my uncle the next day while we were out walking. He said:

"I do not know, James, if you had your rights in England you would be something very great. God forgive those who have wronged you."

"These words, and the manner in which they were said, made a lasting impression on my youthful mind, although I was too young to fully understand their purport."

"While I was at Georgetown College I asked my uncle for an explanation of the singular statement he had once made to me that I was not his nephew, but all he ever told me was that I was born in England and shortly after my birth had been adopted by his sister, who had lost her own child and her husband; that I was taken to Spain, where he held a position under the Spanish Government, and that when the period of his service was over he came to the United States and brought me with him."

"He told me that he could give me no further particulars at that time, and that would not for my happiness to know more."

"His peculiar reticence led me to believe that he was under some vow of secrecy which he would have broken had he felt the liberty to do so."

"From this, together with what he had once told me about being deprived of great rights, I came to the conclusion that I was an illegitimate child, and as this thought was a painful and humiliating one, I never again in any conversation with my uncle referred to the subject, nor did he to me."

"At Georgetown College I passed through the usual course of study. I then made up my mind to enter the priesthood; and this course was warmly indorsed by my uncle, who had always expressed the hope that I would join the Jesuit order. This I did the latter part of 1808, and I took the first vows in October, 1808, at Georgetown College."

UNCLE TRIED TO TELL SECRET ON DEATHBED. "I remained at that college as a teacher until 1811. While I was teaching at Georgetown College as a member of the Jesuit order my reputed uncle died at the navy yard, Washington. His illness was sudden,

and I was sent for in great haste. He recognized me when I arrived, and said: 'James, I have something of the greatest importance to communicate to you.' 'But in a few minutes he fell into a state of unconsciousness and never spoke again.'"

IN THE ARMY AND NAVY. James Ord 2d goes on to say that he inherited about \$1,000 from his reputed uncle, that he gave up the idea of becoming a priest, left the college and on June 9, 1811, was appointed a midshipman by the Secretary of the Navy, Paul Hamilton.

After a cruise in the frigate Congress he found the sea not to his liking, resigned April 13, 1813, and on the 30th of the same month was appointed First Lieutenant in the Thirty-sixth United States Infantry by President Madison. He never knew, he says, to whom he was indebted for the appointments, unless it was the Brent family, his sole acquaintances.

Why, his descendants ask, should James Ord have received such consideration at the hands of the Chief Executive of the United States after throwing up his commission in the navy?

He was married in 1814, he relates, to Rebecca Ruth Cresap, a Protestant, much to the displeasure of the Brents, gave up soldiering in 1815, held various government offices until 1850, and in 1855 left for California on the steamer George Law. He pursued his story:

HINTS IN OLD LETTERS. "In 1830 I came into possession of a package of old letters and papers which had belonged to my reputed uncle, and which since his death had been in the possession of his executor, Mr. William Brent. From these papers I first learned something definite about my reputed uncle's life and family."

"I very much hoped that I might find in them some clue to my birth and parentage, but I was greatly disappointed to find only one letter which was addressed to him in the United States—that from the Rev. M. E. Coen, whom I had heard my uncle say was his parish priest in London."

"It might seem from an expression in this letter that Mr. Coen knew I was not Mary Ord's child, as he says:

"Let me know how your sister is, and whether the child be living."

"It would be more natural to write 'her child' instead of 'the' child."

"There was also a letter from Mr. Joy Castle of London, addressed to Bilbao, Spain, in which inquiries are made for James Ord's mother and sister, but there is no reference to a child."

James Ord says that he often saw his uncle and his letters from England, but since all he found were the Joy Castle and the Coen letters, he began to suspect that the old man had destroyed the others for fear they might throw light on his birth and parentage. The narrative continues:

SUSPECTS HIS PARENTAGE. "In 1833 I first read an account of the marriage of the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert, and also that she was rumored to be enceinte."

"I also read that the English Ambassador to the court of Spain about that time was Mr. Allyn Fitzherbert. I was sent to Spain, a Catholic country, where Mr. Fitzherbert was the English Ambassador. Whether I was taken to Spain by the Ords or was given to them there I know not."

"The date, however, of their going to Spain is a year after the marriage of Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince. James Ord went to Bilbao about the last of November, 1789, and his mother and sister evidently were there in January, 1787. The date of the marriage, December, 1785, corresponded with my age, as nearly as I knew it, for my

uncle once told me he did not know the exact date of my birth.

"In the latter part of the year 1790, was being imminent between England and Spain, Mr. Fitzherbert was recalled, and the Ords left Spain for the United States."

Here the granddaughter of James Ord notes that a Baltimore newspaper of December 9, announcing the arrival of the ship Sampson, which sailed with Bishop Carroll from Gravesend, October 9, 1790, and in all probability brought the Ords, states in an item of foreign intelligence:

"On October 3 the English cabinet held a secret session, which did not break up until 3 o'clock in the morning, after which a special messenger was instantly despatched with letters of recall to Mr. Allyn Fitzherbert, the English Ambassador to the Spanish Court—war now being considered certain between the two countries."

QUESTIONS THE REV. MR. MATTHEWS. James Ord 2d then goes on to say that these circumstances led him to suppose that he was a child of Mrs. Fitzherbert that had been sent out of England for political reasons. Knowing the Rev. William Matthews to have been in the confidence of his reputed uncle, he went to him, related what he knew, even to his reputed uncle's strange statements about his birth, and begged for light. Of this effort to obtain light on his birth his narrative relates the following result:

"Father Matthews then admitted that my reputed uncle had spoken to him many times on the subject of my birth, and had asked his advice about telling me what he knew. He said he was very much troubled between his promise of secrecy and his duty toward me, and that the last day of his life he had sent for me, intending to tell me all, but that I arrived too late."

"Father Matthews said that he had always counseled against telling me, first because he thought I was too young, and, after I entered the Society of Jesus, because he thought it would not serve to unsettle my mind from the religious life and could do me no possible good."

"Now, however, that I had entered the secular life, Father Matthews said he would tell me what my uncle had told him, as he believed he was only carrying out his wish in doing so."

"He said, however, that my uncle really knew very little—that I was a child of one of the sons of George III., and he (James Ord) thought it probable that it was the Prince of Wales, as he had obtained the position in Spain for him; and also that the negotiations for my transfer to the Ords were carried on by Lord Farmer."

The narrative concludes: "I then told Father Matthews that I thought the probabilities were that I was the child of Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales, to which he replied that he had heard this stated by others, but he did not say by whom."

"Father Matthews and Bishop (later Archbishop) Carroll were both Jesuits and intimate friends."

MRS. FITZHERBERT SILENT. Mrs. Fitzherbert then advised me to write to Mrs. Fitzherbert, who was still living. This I did, and submitted the letter to him. He suggested some few alterations and I rewrote it (under date of November 6, 1833), at his house, and then carried it to the State Department addressed to Mrs. Fitzherbert, under cover to Aaron Vail, Esq., to be by him transmitted to Mrs. Fitzherbert. I never learned whether Mrs. Fitzherbert received it, nor did I ever receive any information whatever about it."

A few additional elucidations and notes remain to be presented. It is known that John Carroll, Robert Brent, his brother William, and Noddy Young, who afterward paid for James Ord's tuition at Georgetown, were intimate friends and were all educated together in France. The Brents married sisters of Bishop Carroll.

Noddy Young later sent to St. Omer his son, who in 1804 was a teacher at Georgetown. It has already been stated that John Carroll was intimate with Mrs. Fitzherbert's family.

THE JESUIT TRADITION. Furthermore, in the "Centenary History of Georgetown College," published in 1891 under the auspices of the college, we find on page 29 the statement that "James Ord, son of George IV. and his lawful wife Mrs. Fitzherbert, was enrolled among the students in the year 1807."

When Pacificus Ord, James Ord's eldest son, saw this he wrote to the president of the college to inquire whether there were any documentary proofs of the statements in the college archives. To this the president replied that it has always been a tradition in the college that James Ord was the son of the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert, and that the more he questioned the older fathers of the society the more positive the tradition appeared to have been.

James Ord, a relative of the old grandfather of James Ord, that the tradition was supplied with funds to defray the education of James Ord by the British Minister at Washington.

THE ANSWER MAY BE AT COUTTS'S. One other point remains. In 1894 James Ord's granddaughter wrote to Charles Langdale, son of the author of the "Memoirs of Mrs. Fitzherbert," saying that Father Curley, a priest at Georgetown, had stated that James Ord was the son of Mrs. Fitzherbert and the Prince of Wales, and asking if Mr. Langdale (a relative of the lady) had ever heard any tradition in his family that Mrs. Fitzherbert had a child.

In replying Mr. Langdale enclosed a letter addressed to himself, under date of April 15, 1894, from Basil Fitzherbert of Swynerton Park, Staffordshire, the present head of the Fitzherbert family, saying:

"I cannot give you any information as to whether or not my sister is, and whether the child be living."

"It would be more natural to write 'her child' instead of 'the' child."

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